

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1 - 18 are currently in the application. New claims 19 and 20 are added. Support for the newly added claims may be found in Figure 1. No new matter is added.

Rejections

The claims are rejected as being anticipated by either Suzuki (JP60-26537) or Ames (US6253431). The claims are also rejected as being unpatentable over: 1) Suzuki, or 2) Ames, or 3) Ames in view of Watson (US3796035). Each of these rejections is traversed for the reasons set out below.

Neither Suzuki, Ames, nor Watson show "at least two banding jets" in use before "de-registering."

Suzuki shows, in Figure 4, that banding jets 14 and 18 are located on either side of de-registering rollers 16 and 17.

Ames shows, in Figure 1, that banding jet 130 and, assuming arguendo, the second jet 240 are located on either side of de-registering rollers 40, 60, and 70.

Watson shows, in Figure 1 and column 3, line 53 - column 4, line 15, that banding jets 13 and 24 are on either side of de-registering rollers 19/21 and 22/23.

The claims of the instant application clearly state that "spreading of the tow with at least two banding jets" occurs before "de-registering."

Nowhere, in any of the references, is it suggested that two banding jets are used prior to de-registering.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Hammer III
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,764

Customer No. 29494
Hammer, Ashburg & Hanf, P.C.
3125 Springbank Lane
Suite G
Charlotte, NC 28226
Telephone: 704-927-0400
Facsimile: 704-927-0485

H:\2005\016\Amend120705.doc